## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

**Please amend pages 22-24, starting at the second full paragraph on page 22, as follows:**

The life of the conventional valve regulated lead acid battery was expired after about 500 cycles. All the valve regulated lead batteries of the invention ~~which had been prepared~~ pressed at a pressure of from 40 kPa to 200 kPa showed little or no capacity drop at 800th cycle. However, the cell A, ~~which had been prepared~~ at a low pressure (20 kPa), showed a capacity drop as very early as at 100th cycle. When disassembled, the cell A was found to have its positive active material peeled off from the collector. It is thus presumed that since ~~the cell A had been prepared at a low pressure~~the pressure was low, the resistivity at the interface of the collector with the active material and the internal resistivity of the battery rose during test, lowering the capacity of the battery in early stage. The valve regulated lead acid battery E~~,~~ ~~which had been prepared~~ at the highest pressure, i.e., 400 kPa, showed a capacity drop at 300th cycle. When disassembled, the cell E was found to have its active material penetrating into the glass mat, causing shortcircuiting. It is thus presumed that since ~~the cell E had been prepared at~~ the pressure was too high ~~a pressure~~, the particulate $PbO_2$ or Pb, which is an active material, penetrated deep into small pores in the separator.

As can be seen in the foregoing results, ~~it is necessary that~~ the positive electrode plate obtained by forming $SnO_2$ on the surface of a substrate made of Pb~~,~~ and ~~then~~ applying an active material ~~to the substrate be subject to~~ thereon needs a high pressure because it has a poor adhesivity between the collector having $SnO_2$ formed on the surface thereof and the active material as compared with the conventional lead collector free of $SnO_2$ coat layer used as a